



# SPORTS GOOD AS GOLD



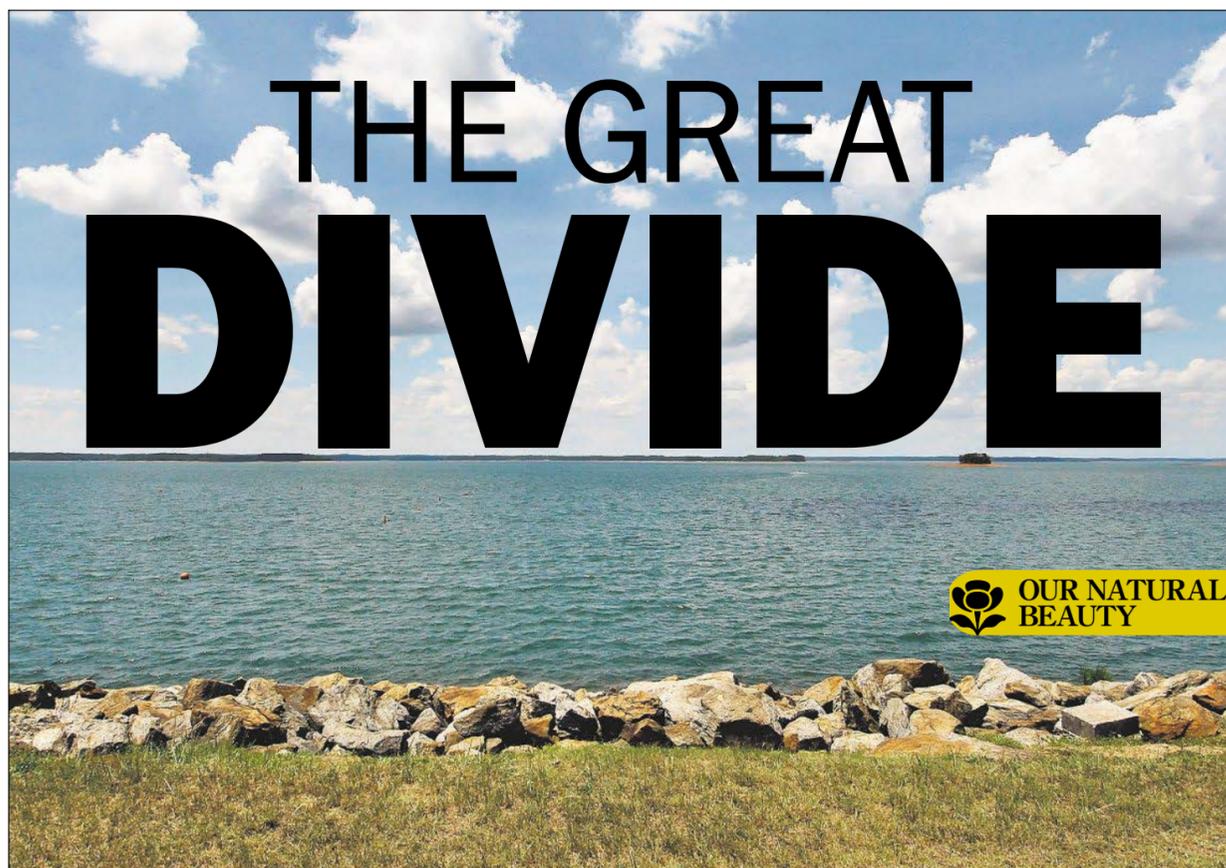
# The Greenville News

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**METRO** Schools show progress under new rating system, but concerns remain, **1B**

FINAL EDITION



OUR NATURAL BEAUTY

The vast resource of freshwater that flows downstream from Hartwell into the Savannah River is the precious commodity at stake in the latest water war between South Carolina and Georgia. MYKAL MCELLOWNEY/STAFF

## Upstate economy, coastal wells, Georgia's growth all at stake in Savannah River dispute

By Nathaniel Cary  
Staff writer  
ncary@greenvillenews.com

Access to water — lifeblood to humans and economies — underscores an increasing tension between Georgia and South Carolina that may shape or stall economic engines on each side of the very river that divides them. Coveted by cities, utilities and businesses on both sides, 200 miles of the Savannah River acts as a border between the states and provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents. The freshwater that flows from Lake Hartwell's dam into the Savannah River funnels water to run paper mills and power plants. It feeds agriculture and creates swamps and marshes lined by pine and hardwood forests. And its downstream flow keeps the ocean's saltwater from creeping upstream and destroying biological and aquatic life miles from the ocean. For now at least. Booming populations over the past two decades and a lack of limits on who can tap the wa-

ter source and for how much has created a critical mass of water-related issues that are quickly coming to a head. The latest episode in the war for water centers on Hilton Head Island, where groundwater wells have been rendered useless after being infiltrated by saltwater. More wells face the same fate over the next decade if water use isn't drastically altered by utilities in South Carolina and Georgia, according to state Department of Health and Environmental Control models. At issue is how much water is pumped from an underground pocket, called an aquifer, that runs beneath portions of both states. Utilities have pumped so much water from the Upper Floridian Aquifer that ocean saltwater has begun to contaminate the freshwater, moving 350-400 feet upstream from Port Royal Sound each year. It's rendered five wells on Hilton Head Island useless so far and the island has started to switch from groundwater to public water brought in from the Savannah River, said Catherine Templeton, South Carolina's director of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Templeton said not enough has been done —

See WATER, Page 7A

## USC, Clemson make top 14

Staff Report

The University of South Carolina and Clemson University football teams will hit the practice field tonight knowing the nation holds them in high regard. Both teams, which open pre-season practice tonight, were ranked among the nation's best in the USA TODAY coaches pre-season college football poll released Thursday. The Gamecocks, coming off a school-record 11-win season, are ranked No. 9 in the poll. The Tigers, who last year won the Atlantic Coast Conference championship, are ranked No. 14.

For previews of the teams' first practices, turn to Page 1C

As South Carolina begins pursuit of its first-ever Southeastern Conference championship, it will face strong competition. Six other SEC teams are ranked in the USA TODAY pre-season poll, including four in the top 10. LSU, which lost in the Football Bowl Subdivision championship game to Alabama, is ranked No. 1 in the pre-season poll. The defending FBS champion Alabama is No. 2. Georgia is No. 6 and Arkansas is No. 10. Florida (No. 23) and Auburn (No. 25) also are ranked. The ACC's highest-ranked team is Florida State at No. 7, and Virginia Tech is also ranked at No. 20. South Carolina fans will be allowed to watch the first week of the Gamecocks' pre-season practices, which open at 7:30 tonight at the Proving Ground on Bluff Road. Many eyes will be on former Byrnes High star Marcus Lattimore. The Gamecocks' leading rusher the past two seasons, Lattimore will be practicing for the first time since injuring his left knee last October. As Clemson opens at 5:45 tonight, it will continue the reconstruction of its defense under new coordinator Brent Venables. The Tigers slipped from 19th nationally in total defense in 2010 to 71st in 2011. The Tigers' practice isn't open to the public.

## Lyman soldier brought home

Family receives body of Pfc. Adam Ross in solemn ceremony at airport

By Ron Barnett  
Staff writer  
rbarnett@greenvilleonline.com

Twenty-six-year Navy and Army veteran George Ross marched solemnly across the hot tarmac at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport to a flag-draped casket that had just been lowered from a chartered jet. There, he knelt for a moment, embracing the coffin that held his son's body, as a crowd of more than 100

watched in silence from behind a chain link fence. Pfc. Adam Ross, 19, who had followed in the footsteps of his father and older brother to serve in the U.S. Army, was home at last. Just three weeks into his tour of duty in Afghanistan, he paid for his decision to serve his country with his life, becoming a casualty of a war that started when he was 8 years old. Ross was the third member of the military with Upstate



The body of Upstate soldier Pfc. Adam Ross arrives at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport on Thursday. KEN OSBURN/STAFF

ties to return home to a hero's posthumous welcome in little over a month. His father, still receiving treatment for injuries from his time in Afghanistan two years ago, rose from his som-

ber embrace and slowly saluted before turning and marching stoically back to a row of metal chairs where the rest of the family watched and wept.

See ROSS, Page 7A

### INSIDE

- Abby.....TAB
- Area news.....1B
- Bridge.....TAB
- Business.....11A
- Classifieds.....1D
- Comics.....TAB
- Horoscope.....TAB
- Kids Page.....TAB
- Obituaries.....4B
- Sports.....1C
- Television.....TAB
- Theaters.....TAB
- Things to do.....TAB
- U.S./World.....2A
- Voices.....10A
- Weather.....8B



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Low 71

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